

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled).

19. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dose of IL-6, ~~or a mutein, isoform, fused protein, functional derivative, active fraction, circularly permuted derivative or a salt thereof~~ or IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to treat ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis, wherein the dose is in the range of 0.1 to 10 mcg/kg weight ~~and wherein the fused protein, when present, is IL-6 fused to an immunoglobulin or a fragment thereof, or to gp80 or a fragment thereof.~~

Claim 20-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Previously presently) The method according to claim 19, wherein the method of treatment comprises liver resection.

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Claim 24 (Cancelled).

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the dose is about 0.1 mcg/kg or about 1 mcg/kg or about 10 mcg/kg.

Claims 26-27 (Cancelled).

28. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the IL-6, ~~or a mutein, isoform, fused protein, functional derivative, active fraction, circularly permuted derivative or a salt thereof~~ or IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide is administered daily or administered once a week or administered three times per week.

Claims 29-30 (Cancelled).

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the IL-6 is glycosylated at one or more sites.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the IL-6 is not glycosylated.

33. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the ~~fused~~ other protein or

polypeptide to which ~~is~~ IL-6 is fused to ~~is~~ an immunoglobulin (Ig) or ~~to~~ a fragment thereof.

34. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the ~~fused other protein or~~ polypeptide to which ~~is~~ IL-6 is fused to ~~is~~ gp80 or ~~to~~ a fragment thereof.

Claims 35-39 (Cancelled).

40. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis which comprises resection, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dose of IL-6, ~~a mutein, fused protein, active fraction or circularly permuted derivative thereof~~ or IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide to treat ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis including resection, wherein the dose is in the range of 0.1 to 10 mcg/kg weight.

Claims 41-47 (Cancelled).

48. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the administration is carried out before during and/or after resection treatment.

Claims 49-54 (Cancelled).

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55. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis followed by engraftment, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dose of IL-6, ~~a mutein, fused protein, active fraction or circularly permuted derivative thereof~~ or IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide to treat ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis, wherein the dose is in the range of 0.1 to 10 mcg/kg weight.

Claims 56-58 (Cancelled).

59 (Currently amended). The method of claim 55, wherein the ~~cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis is caused by hepatotoxic agents.

60 (Currently amended). The method of claim 19, wherein the ~~cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis is caused by hepatotoxic agents.

61 (Currently amended). The method of claim 40, wherein the ~~cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis is caused by hepatotoxic agents.

Claim 62 (Cancelled).

63. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the other protein or polypeptide to which IL-6 is fused is an immunoglobulin (Ig) or a fragment thereof.

64. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the other protein or polypeptide to which IL-6 is fused is gp80 or a fragment thereof.

65. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein the other protein or polypeptide to which IL-6 is fused is an immunoglobulin (Ig) or a fragment thereof.

66. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein the other protein or polypeptide to which IL-6 is fused is gp80 or a fragment thereof.